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REMARKS

Applicants' representative Robert L. Showalter telephoned Examiner To on September 20, 2006. Claim 25 was discussed. On September 21, 2006, Examiner To contacted Mr. Showalter and presented proposed amendments to claim 25. The Examiner indicated that his proposed amendments would place claim 25 in an allowable form. Applicants sincerely appreciate the Examiner's suggested claim language. However, Applicants have decided to amend claim 25 in a different manner, as set out above and discussed below.

In the final Office Action dated August 2, claims 25-28, 30, 31 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,210,102 to Joslin, and claims 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the '102 patent and U.S. Patent No. 6,102,605 to Emmons. The Office Action also indicates that claims 17, 19, 22-24, 29 and 38 are allowable and claims 36, 39 and 40 are directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 33 and 34 stand withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species.

With this paper, claim 39 has been canceled and independent claim 25 has been amended to recite the limitations of allowable claim 39. The dependency of claim 40 has been changed in view of the cancellation of claim 39. Further, allowable claim 36 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claims 25 and 36 and dependent claims 26-28, 30, 31, 33-35 and 40-42 are now allowable.

Entry of this Amendment After Final is respectfully requested as the amendments to claims 25, 36 and 40 do not raise any new issues.

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Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and claim amendments, Applicants submit that claims 17, 19, 22-31 and 33-36, 38, and 40-42 define patentably over the prior art. Early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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